



## Federal Internships Offer Great Opportunities to Wounded Warriors

Posted by Captain Tommy Elliott on Friday, December 14, 2012

My name is Captain Tommy Elliott and I enlisted into the Marine Corps 1997. I served four years traveling the world as a Radio Operator as my primary billet, and then I used the G.I. bill to attend college after finishing my initial contract. After graduation, I returned to the Marine Corps as an officer, became an Aviation Supply Officer, and deployed to Mediterranean soon after completing my aviation logistics course.

About a year ago, while on this deployment off the coast of Libya during Operation Odyssey Dawn, I became very ill. My unit eventually transferred me to the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Bethesda Naval for specialty treatment. When my health began to improve, the Marine Corps Transition Coordinator told me about an Operation War Fighter (OWF) internship opportunity at the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I jumped at the opportunity, knowing that I could continue to fight the good fight in the Intelligence Community (IC).

The internship program offered by the PM-ISE, like many others, is a great opportunity for Wounded Warriors to become familiar with the IC and to obtain an elevated clearance. Wounded Warriors transitioning out of the military should take advantage of this or similar internship programs.

PM-ISE's internship program has brought me into the IC with open arms and I'm particularly impressed with the personnel here and their professionalism. They have helped me to assimilate into the IC culture; their goal has been to mentor and help me obtain my clearance. Transitioning out of the military can be a stressful time, and the PM-ISE's efforts are helping to simplify this process.

I strongly recommend that all wounded, ill, and injured service members seek out federal internships. Talk to recruiting officers within those agencies to see if your interests and skill sets are a fit for the agency. I also encourage the directors of every federal agency to look into your current operations and see if an internship mentor program is a viable option for service members.

If you have any questions about becoming an intern or offering an internship to Wounded Warriors, please post a comment below ? or send an email through the [contact us](#) <sup>[1]</sup> form.

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